

true justice have had and will continue to have on our legal system. On behalf of the 9th Congressional District of California, I salute and thank Judge Horace Wheatley for his invaluable contributions to the people of Alameda County, the 9th Congressional District, the State of California and our entire country.

CONGRATULATING NEW NMA
PRESIDENT DR. SANDRA L.
GADSON

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize and congratulate one of my constituents and the 106th president of The National Medical Association, Dr. Sandra L. Gadson.

Founded in 1895, the National Medical Association, NMA, is the largest and oldest national organization representing African American physicians and their patients in the United States. The NMA represents the interests of more than 35,000 African American physicians and the patients they serve and is the leading force for parity and justice in medicine and the elimination of health disparities. Throughout its history, the National Medical Association has focused primarily on health issues related to African Americans and medically underserved populations, as well as all ethnic groups.

Many years ago, Dr. Gadson was herself a patient, facing a battle with colon cancer. In her own words, Dr. Gadson stated: "When my patients curse a rising wave of pain or struggle to give voice to their suffering, I understand because I've been there." This experience has not only influenced Dr. Gadson to be a more sensitive and empathetic doctor, but it inspired her to improve the quality of service available to patients everywhere.

While working in the Emergency Room at Methodist Hospital in Gary, Indiana, Dr. Gadson was shocked to learn that the predominately poor, African American city had a high prevalence of kidney failure but no dialysis center. She immediately took action and established the first freestanding dialysis center in northern Indiana.

In her acceptance speech, Dr. Gadson said that as president of NMA, she will work to increase its membership and mentorship, advocate for a national health plan of universal coverage, strengthen partnerships with churches and the media to promote health awareness, and to launch initiatives in kidney disease that encourage transplantation and organ donation. Dr. Gadson, a practicing nephrologist, also made note of the fact that African Americans make up 13 percent of the U.S. population but nearly one-third of all kidney patients. "The crisis of kidney failure in the African American community mirrors the dilemma of health care disparities," Dr. Gadson stated.

Dr. Gadson's contributions to the health community have been enumerable. As president of the NMA, she will continue to help decrease health disparities and increase access to high quality healthcare for all Americans. We are truly fortunate to have her as a part of our community, and I congratulate her on her achievement.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
WITH GOVERNMENT REFORM TO
GIVE DC CITIZENS A PLACE IN
STATUARY HALL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that Government Reform Committee Chair TOM DAVIS (R-VA) and House Administration Committee Ranking Member JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD (D-CA) are introducing a bill with me today to permit two statues honoring citizens of the District of Columbia in Statuary Hall of the Capitol, just as statues honoring citizens of States are placed in the historic hall. This legislation would allow the city to offer two statues to the Congress on behalf of DC residents. As I introduce this bill, as we have just honored the citizens of New Mexico, I ask the committee to remember that with the placement of their second statute, a bill I was pleased to support, I seek equal recognition for the citizens of the District of Columbia.

The District of Columbia was born with the Nation itself. The city has more than two centuries of its very own rich and uniquely American history. It goes without saying that the almost 650,000 American citizens who live in the Nation's Capital deserve the honor of having two of its history makers represented in the halls of the Nation's Capital just as citizens who live in the 50 States have long enjoyed.

Our bill would allow the Mayor and the City Council to devise the method for determining the identity of the honorees, who must be deceased. Mayor Anthony Williams has already agreed to find funds in the District's budget for these statues upon the passage of this legislation.

Every time we allow the District to be excluded from its place among the 50 States, we undermine the Nation's efforts to spread full democracy around the world. While DC residents have not yet obtained the same political equality and voting rights as the citizens of the States, they have all the responsibilities of the States, including paying all Federal taxes and serving in all wars. Today, when our residents are serving in Iraq, the least we should do is to give this city its rightful and equal place in the Capitol. Among our residents now serving their country, the District lost 44-year-old Lt. Col. Paul W. Kimbrough, an African American engineer who was supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. I attended the funeral of 21-year-old Specialist Darryl Dent of the DC National Guard who was killed in Iraq. There are more than 100 soldiers still serving in Iraq from Specialist Dent's 547th Transportation Company.

This bill offers District residents the opportunity to enjoy the same pride that all other citizens experience when they come to their Capital—the opportunity to view memorials that commemorate the efforts of deceased local residents who have made significant contributions to American history.

REP. BARBARA LEE HONORED BY
THE 100 BLACK MEN OF SILICON
VALLEY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Ms. LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, the California Democratic Congressional Delegation is proud to recognize the achievements of our colleague, Rep. Barbara Lee, upon the presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the 100 Black Men of Silicon Valley.

The concept of the 100 Black Men was born in New York in 1963, when a group of concerned African American men gathered to explore ways of improving conditions in their community. These visionaries and industry leaders included David Dinkins, Jackie Robinson, Nathaniel Goldston III, Andrew Hatcher and founding President Dr. William Hayling.

The mission of the 100 Black Men of Silicon Valley is to improve the quality of life of our citizens and enhance educational opportunities for African Americans and minorities, through its chapters, in all communities—with a particular emphasis on young African American males. They do this by focusing on mentoring, education, health and wellness, and economic development.

It is fitting that Representative BARBARA LEE is being honored for her long record of standing for youth and family issues such as criminal justice reform as a member of the Public Safety, Sentencing and Incarceration Reform Caucus. Health and wellness has been at a priority for her in Congress as well. She has fought to establish a United States Health Service and provide health coverage for all Americans. The measure, first introduced in 1978 by her predecessor, Representative Ron Dellums, has been a priority for her since her election in 1998. Representative BARBARA LEE has also been committed to promoting economic development and supporting those who need it most, including working to secure investment in housing, transit systems, roads, clean water, and schools to stimulate the economy and create jobs.

We wish to thank the 100 Black Men for their tireless efforts to enhance the quality of life for all citizens, and to Representative BARBARA LEE for her deeply held commitment to the principle of human rights.

IN HONOR OF DON MILANESE,
VICE PRESIDENT OF LAS
POSITAS COLLEGE, ON THE OC-
CASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Don Milanese, vice president of Academic Services at Las Positas College in Livermore, who is retiring after 35 years of service to the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District, the Tri-Valley community, and thousands of students.

Don began his career in 1964 as a graduate teaching assistant at the University of California at Davis. Following a 2-year stint in the

Army, he joined Chabot College as an adjunct faculty member teaching political science, while serving as an assistant administrative analyst in the education section of the Legislative Analyst's Office in Sacramento. In 1970, he became the coordinator of Evening and Extension Operations at Chabot College. His warm, supportive manner was felt throughout the campus by faculty, staff and students. After 5 years, Don then became the assistant dean of instruction for Evening and Extension Operations at Chabot College's Valley Campus in Livermore. It was here that Don focused his talents on shaping the vision he shared with other college officials: a college that would serve the Tri-Valley. His hard work, dedication, and ability to dream helped establish Las Positas College. In 1992, he accepted the position of dean of Academic Services at the College, and in 1994 the position converted to the vice president of Academic Services.

Don's talent and wisdom extend beyond community college curriculum and instruction. He has used his skills to create community partnerships to benefit students, the college, and the community. He has been a driving force behind the Tri-Valley Educational Collaborative, which brings together business and education leaders to address issues of mutual interest.

Above and beyond his accomplishments at the colleges of Chabot and Las Positas, Don is revered for his compassionate nature, his ability to know when to lead and when to follow, and his sense of humor. While Don's skills and knowledge will be greatly missed and will leave a void at the college, it is his love of the college, students, faculty, and staff that will be missed the most.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Don Milanese the best of luck in retirement. I hope he finds joy in this next chapter of his life in equal measure to the joy he has given his colleagues in his working life.

A TRIBUTE TO THE PHILADELPHIA MURAL ARTS PROGRAM AND THE SOUTH PHILLY MUSICIANS MURAL

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Philadelphia Mural Arts Program, which will dedicate the new South Philadelphia musicians mural at 9th and Wharton Streets in my district on Saturday, October 8. As everyone knows, Philadelphia has long been one of the capitols of popular culture. This mural will honor seven of the icons of that culture, Jerry Blavat, Al Martino, Frankie Avalon, Fabian, Chubby Checker, Bobby Rydell and Eddie Fisher.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that this mural will include one of the pioneers of rock and roll, my dear friend Jerry Blavat. Jerry was attracted to the music business because of his love for the music, not for fame or wealth. He was a dancer on the original Bandstand television program, hosted by Bob Horn. He became a favorite with the viewers and rose to

the head of the coveted "Committee," the group of teens responsible for aiding Horn in the direction of the show. Jerry got into radio in 1962 and soon was given the title "The Geator With The Heater." He soon coupled his growing popularity on the air, which by 1963 resulted in regional syndication of his program on small stations throughout the Delaware Valley from Atlantic City to Allentown, with appearances off the air at dances, clubs and events. It was not unusual for Blavat to see 5,000 kids a week in person in the mid sixties, nor too much of a stretch to say he would remember 3,000 of their names the following week. His appearances became so frequent that for a time he needed to use a helicopter just to make it on time from one gig to the next. Today the helicopter is gone, but the frantic schedule is still in place. Throughout the year, he can be found somewhere on virtually any night, and in the summer months he is in weekend residence at Memories At Margate, the New Jersey Shore's hottest night spot which he has owned and operated since 1972.

Al Martino will celebrate his 68th birthday on October 7. The son of Italian immigrants, Martino worked as a bricklayer in his father's construction business before being encouraged to become a singer by his friend Mario Lanza. After singing in local clubs, and winning Arthur Godfrey's Talent Scouts, he recorded "Here In My Heart" for the small BBS record label. It shot to No. 1 in the U.S. chart, and sold over a million copies. This disc was also the first ever record to top the New Musical Express UK listings, inaugurated in 1952. He continued his illustrious career on both stage and screen.

Frankie Avalon was the first and most successful of the teen idols from Philadelphia. He was encouraged to perform from the time he was a child, beginning from when he was tutored on the trumpet by his father. By the time he was 12, he had joined Rocco and the Saints, a dance band that featured another boy from the CR Club, drummer Bobby Rydell. The combo played parish bazaars, shows at the Sons of Italy Hall, weekend sock hops in school gyms, and weekend dances at teen clubs. "Venus" was Avalon's biggest hit selling more than a million copies in the spring of 1959. Three more million sellers in a row, "Bobby Sox To Stockings," "Just Ask Your Heart," and "Why" followed.

In 1960, he co-starred with Alan Ladd in "Guns of the Timberland" and appeared in John Wayne's "Alamo." Appearing in a number of other films Avalon did not have a starring role until 1963's "Drums of Africa." In the early sixties there was a nationwide surfing craze and Hollywood did a number of movies on the subject. Avalon, along with Annette Funicello, were leading stars in these movies. Starting in 1963 he appeared in "Beach Party," "Muscle Beach," "Beach Blanket Bingo," etc.

Mr. Speaker, Avalon's friend, Fabian was an overnight singing sensation, a film star with over 30 films to his credit and the producer of his own concert series. Fabian Forte was actually discovered at the age of 14 sitting on his front steps in Philadelphia. At 15, he won the Silver Award as "The Most Promising Male Vocalist of 1958." By the time he was 18, he had recorded dozens of hit singles, eight al-

bums and earned gold records for "Turn Me Loose" and "Tiger" and a gold album for "The Fabulous Fabian." In 1959, Fabian made his screen debut in "Hound Dog Man" opposite Carol Lynley. His role as a homicidal maniac in a TV production entitled "A Lion Walks Among Us" directed by Robert Altman solidly established his credentials as a versatile and powerful actor. His impressive acting credits include featured roles with John Wayne, James Stewart, Jack Palance, Tuesday Weld, George Segal and Karen Black.

Chubby Checker was born in South Carolina, but grew up in South Philadelphia. By the time he entered high school, he had learned to play the piano at Settlement Music School. In June of 1959, Chubby recorded "The Twist." Fourteen months later, in the summer of 1960, "The Twist" was not only the No. 1 song but it introduced the concept of "dancing apart to the beat." Mr. Speaker, Chubby Checker accomplished many "firsts" in the record industry. He is the only artist to have 5 albums in the top 12 all at once; the only artist to have a song to be No. 1 twice—"The Twist" and the only artist to have nine double-sided hits.

Bobby Rydell, unlike many of the other Teen Idols, was a genuine musician. At the age of 4 or 5, Bobby used to sit in front of the TV set trying to impersonate performers like Louis Prima, Milton Berle, and Johnny Ray. His father recognized Bobby's talent and encouraged him to pursue a show business career. At 5 he began taking lessons on the drums. Three years later he was an accomplished cabaret performer, playing drums and doing imitations. At 9, he was a regular on Paul Whiteman's television show that was broadcast from Philadelphia and performed on it for 3 years. By the time he was a teen, he was playing drums in a dance band Rocco and the Saints. Rydell's million seller, "Wild One" was released in early in 1960. "Swingin' School" b/w "Ding-A-Ling" was a springtime hit and third million seller. That summer "Volare" was released. The song had been pulled from a previous unsuccessful session of songs in a big band style to introduce Rydell to an older audience.

Mr. Speaker, Eddie Fisher received his first wide exposure as frequent guest performer on Eddie Cantor's early-fifties TV broadcasts. Later responsible for million-selling records during the fifties, including "Any Time," his signature song, "O My Papa," and many others. In 1953 Eddie Fisher was given his own 15-minute TV show called "Coke Time," sponsored by the Coca-Cola company. This show proved to be so popular that Coke then offered Eddie a \$1 million contract to be their national spokesperson. A deal of that magnitude was almost unheard of at this time and helped push Fisher towards being one of the most popular singers by 1954. At the height of his popularity, during the 1950s, Fisher was, along with Perry Como and Elvis Presley, RCA Victor's top-selling pop vocalist. His many hits during this period, all well remembered, include: "Anytime," his first big hit, "Oh, My Papa," "Wish You Were Here," "I Need You Now," "Dungaree Doll," "I'm Walking Behind You," "Heart," "Games That Lovers Play" and "Somebody Like You."